

Attorney Docket: 081468-0307331  
Client Reference: P-1774.000-US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:  
HELMAR VAN SANTEN et al.  
Application No.: 10/743,271

Confirmation Number: 4441

Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed: December 23, 2003

Examiner: NGUYEN, HUNG

Title: LITHOGRAPHIC APPARATUS AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action dated November 20, 2006, the Examiner has set forth "Reasons for Allowance." Applicants respectfully traverse these Reasons. Specifically, it is submitted that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective claimed elements and limitations as a whole. That is, the patentability of the claims rests on the combination of recited elements and limitations. As such, Applicants submit that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart or be required for patentability of the claims. Furthermore, Applicants submit that the dependent claims are allowable not only for their dependence on the allowed independent claims, but also for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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